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Sen. John Cornyn announces Congressional Gold Medal for Vietnam Dust Off crews

By Phillip Reidinger
AMEDDC&S, HRCoE Public Affairs

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn hosted a press conference at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum on Fort Sam Houston Nov. 11 to highlight his recently filed legislation titled “The Dust Off Crews of Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act.”

The bill directs the Speaker of the House and the Senate President pro tem to present, on behalf of Congress, a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War collectively, in recognition of their heroic service.

Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, a Medal of Honor recipient and Dust Off veteran, joined Cornyn to describe the contributions of Dust Off crews during the Vietnam War.

“Dust Off” was the tactical call sign for helicopter ambulances operated by crews who performed aeromedical evacuation for United States, Vietnamese and allied forces that were wounded on the battlefields of the Vietnam War.

During his remarks, Brady noted that America’s nobility are called veterans whose deeds embody the values of courage, sacrifice and patriotism.

“KIA, MIA and POW are the highest titles earned through



Photo by Phillip Reidinger

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (right) hosted a press conference at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum on Fort Sam Houston Nov. 11, Veterans Day, to highlight his recently filed legislation titled “The Dust Off Crews of Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act.” Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady (left), a Medal of Honor recipient and Dust Off veteran, described the contributions of Dust Off crews during the Vietnam War.

blood, sweat and tears,” Brady said.

Brady recalled the exploits of Maj. Charles Kelly and the members of the 57th and 54th Medical Detachments (Air Ambulance) who flew medical evacuation missions in Vietnam. Kelly was killed July 1, 1964 while evacuating wounded Soldiers when he refused to leave only “when I have your wounded” which became the motto for Dust Off crews.

According to Dan Gower, past

president of the Dust Off Association, the members of Army Dust Off units in Vietnam were some of the most heroic and talented service members in the history of American aviation warfare.

“The Vietnam War imposed an extraordinary cost of life and limb suffered by so many of our service members who fought there,” Gower said.

The Dust Off mission in Vietnam was to expedite the relief



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Sharpening a resume with purpose, relevance

By Jenny Gordon

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.
Public Affairs

Writing a resume for federal employment consideration doesn't have to be daunting.

In fact, it's about providing an applicant's best qualities when it comes to showcasing workplace responsibilities, education and career accomplishments.

Keeping a current resume has a purpose and several benefits, from being able to respond and apply for an immediate job posting, to staying abreast of job duties and highlighting ongoing significant activities.

"A resume is relevant information to give an employer an understanding of your duties and experience gained over a number of years," said Angelia Solomon, the staffing section chief for the Air Force Personnel Center's operating location at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "It's very important that an applicant be clear and precise with

information provided on a resume."

When writing a resume, there are several key pieces of information that should be included when describing work experience and education. There's not a particular desired layout.

Personal information should detail your full name, mailing address and day and evening telephone numbers with area codes.

Social security numbers aren't required, however when completing your total application package, an occupational questionnaire will ask for it, however, it's used for verification purposes only.

On work experience, detailed information should include an employer's name and address, employment dates (from month and year to month and year, or month and year to present) and job title.

This area should include thorough descriptions of all paid and nonpaid positions

related to the job for which an applicant is applying as well as descriptions of all duties performed. Copies of job descriptions should not be included.

Other information to include: salary, number of hours worked per week, supervisor's name and phone number, series and pay plan or grade if for a federal position and other accomplishments and related skills.

Education information should include the school or program name and address, type of degree or level attained, completion date with month and year, major field of study, total credits earned in semester or quarter hours, honors, relevant coursework, licensures and certifications.

Copies of transcripts will be requested as needed.

Other information: job-related training courses with title and year; job-related skills such as languages, computer software and hardware known, tools, machinery,

typing speed, etc.; job-related certificates and licenses; and job honors, awards and special accomplishments, to include publications, professional memberships, leadership activities and performance awards.

If applicable, include other languages known, and volunteer experience. References are optional.

Unlike in the private sector, when writing a resume for a federal job, there's no limit to the number of pages you can include. There's also no limit when including work experience.

"There's no one resume," Solomon said. "People may think there's one generic resume when there's not. Each job is different with specialized duties, so you may have to alter your resume just to include what's needed."

All federal positions are posted on <http://www.usajobs.gov>, the federal government's official, web-based job board. You can store up to five resumes and 10

candidate documents on the site so they're ready to submit. It's free and available to everyone. There's also a helpful resume builder to take you through each step of the process.

One benefit to adding a current resume to the site is that recruiters can use it to help determine if there are qualified candidates for a job.

Always double check if a resume has been attached to specific job packages.

Also, keep it simple and easy to read, and focus on delivering the most current, best representation of yourself to prospective employers.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit the myPers website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/login/redirect/home>. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/myPers/index.asp>.

Soldiers wanted by Army Criminal Investigation Command

"Wanted." The word placed in bold letters across a poster with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command badge incites fear in criminals around the world.

The latest "Wanted" poster released by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, however, is seeking assistance of a different kind. Commonly known

as CID, it is seeking applications from qualified Soldiers to train and serve as sworn federal law enforcement agents.

CID and its agents support the Army in peace and war, by investigating felony-level crime that has an Army nexus.

From homicide to contracting fraud, CID's reach covers the globe and helps keep the

Army community safe with one of the highest crime solve rates in modern law enforcement.

"If you want to do real detective work, if that is where your heart is, Army CID is where you need to be," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Welch, the command's chief warrant officer. "That is what we do day in and day out."

CID Special Agents are on the cutting edge with the latest in criminal investigative tactics and techniques and receive some of the best training available in law enforcement today.

Agents are supported by a world-renowned criminal forensic laboratory and have the opportunity to pursue



See CID, P16



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News Briefs

JBSA Transition Summit

A free hiring fair and transition summit for service members, veterans and military spouses is scheduled for Dec. 9-10 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Community Center, 1395 Chaffee Road. The event features federal and state agencies, local military and community leaders and innovators in the business community. The two-day interactive summit also features panel events, recruiter training and facilitated discussions on improving competitive employment opportunities. The first panel is at 4 p.m. Dec. 9, followed by a networking reception at 5:30 p.m. for employers, senior leader and job seekers. At 9:30 a.m. Dec. 10, there are employment workshops for job seekers, followed by interactive forums and panels at 11 a.m. and the hiring fair/career forum at 1 p.m. Register at <http://www.hiringourheroes.org>.

Free parenting order legal clinics available

All three Joint Base San Antonio judge advocate general offices and the Texas Attorney General's staff offer military parents free parenting order legal clinics to answer questions about paternity, child support and parenting time. At JBSA-Lackland, the clinic is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 16 at 1701 Kenly Ave., building 2484, conference room 029. At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the clinic is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 28, 2016 at the M&FRC, 2910 Stanley Road, building 2797. Clinic coordinators ask that parents not bring children to the clinics. For more information, call 652-6781 at JBSA-Randolph, 671-5789 at JBSA-Lackland and 808-0169 at JBSA Fort Sam Houston.

2015 Federal Benefits Open Season Underway

The open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program and the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program continues through Dec. 14. Enrollment in a Self Plus One option is now available for the FEHB and enrollment in this program will satisfy the Affordable Care Act's minimum essential coverage requirement. FEHB election are effective Jan. 10, 2016 and will be reflected on leave and earnings state-

Air Education and Training Command battles national texting 'epidemic'

What's worse than drinking and driving?

According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, texting and driving. As a matter of fact, texting while driving is about six times more likely to cause an accident than driving intoxicated.

That's why Air Education and Training Command is running a Distracted Driving Campaign through Jan. 15.

"Distracted driving – and texting and driving in particular – has become an epidemic," said Blane Taylor, AETC occupational safety manager. "I think people are shocked to hear texting and driving is more dangerous than drinking and driving. But most people don't drink every day. Many people do, however, text every day. The sheer volume of texters makes this one of the leading mishap factors for

motorists."

Taylor said in addition to safety awareness, the campaign will focus on letting people know the federal and state laws on distracted driving in the area in which they live.

The president himself has directed federal employees to not text message while driving government vehicles. And handheld cell phone use while driving on Department of Defense installations is strictly forbidden. Despite those efforts, however, the Air Force has not been immune to the catastrophic effects of distracted driving.

Less than a year out of basic training, a 20-year-old Airman lost control of his vehicle while texting and driving. It flipped three times and ejected a passenger. The Airman survived, but his passenger died. He is still

haunted by her death.

In another instance, a 19-year-old AETC Airman drove while trying to use the GPS on his cell phone, which sat on his lap. With his eyes off the road, he drifted into the lane of on-coming traffic, striking an ambulance head-on. Both vehicles flipped, and the Airman and two of his passengers died.

Distracted driving causes more than 350,000 vehicle mishaps per year, and texting and driving tops the list of distractions, NHTSA statistics show.

According to studies, five seconds is the average time texting steals a person's attention from the road. If you are going 55 mph, that's like traveling the length of a football field blindfolded.

"Each one of us can do our part to reduce this epidemic by being informed of



Graphic courtesy U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Distracted driving kills and injures thousands of people each year. The fight to end distracted driving starts with you. More information can be found at <http://www.distraction.gov>.

the state and federal laws in effect," Taylor said. "Make a pledge to not use your phone or text while driving. Driving is dangerous enough – even without distractions. Our goal is simple: We want people to stay focused while driving so they can

reach their destinations safely."

Taylor encourages everyone to check out the Department of Transportation's website at <http://www.distraction.gov> for more information.

(Source: AETC Public Affairs)

SOLDIERS HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE

The November Consolidated Army Retirement Ceremony was held at the Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle, Nov. 19, and was hosted by Army Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb, commanding general, Regional Health Command-Central (Provisional). This month's retirees are (from left) Col. David S. Imhof, U.S. Army North; Col. Janice Higuera, U.S. Army South; Lt. Col. Thomas E. Shrader, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Headquarters, Dallas; Lt. Col. Darrell Smalls, U.S. Army Medical Command; Maj. Larry N. Smith, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, U.S. Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence; Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Garcia, ARSOUTH; Sgt. Maj. Lance J. Tomiczek, Brooke Army Medical Center; Master Sgt. Sean C. Hendricks, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 232nd Medical Battalion; Master Sgt. Carl T. Hall, 187th Medical Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Brent A. Hunt, ARSOUTH; Sgt. 1st Class Raul Narvaez Jr, 228th Combat Support Hospital; Sgt. 1st Class Malinda L. Moody-Williams, AMEDDC&S, HRCOE; and Sgt. 1st Class Brian McDaris, 717th Military Intelligence Battalion.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

New course for Army E7s begins as part of NCO education overhaul

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

A new Master Leader Course pilot has begun as part of a revamping of noncommissioned officer, or NCO, education and professional development.

"As you may or may not know, the Master Leader Course is now official," said Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport Sr., U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, who spoke during a forum at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C., Oct. 14.

The first pilot of the course for sergeants first class is now being taught on Fort Bliss, Texas. The new course will eventually be required for promotion to master

sergeant and is part of a renewed emphasis across the Army on NCO education.

There's a push to eliminate the current backlog of more than 14,000 NCOs, who have not gone to their required professional military education, or PME, Davenport said.

"Deferments are causing a huge disruption," Davenport said. In the future, instead of just saying that an NCO can't go to school due to an operational conflict, commanders will need to say when that NCO can go to school, Davenport said.

PME requirements for promotion will no longer be waived for NCOs, he said, beginning next year.

Enforcing education requirements comes as a widening of STEP, which stands for selection, training, education



Photo by Gary Sheftick

Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport Sr., of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, speaks about changes to noncommissioned officer education and professional development during a forum at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C., Oct. 14.

and promotion. It was first used to require master sergeants and first sergeants to attend the Sergeants Major Academy, or USASMA, to get promoted and now

it's expanding to all NCO ranks.

It's simple, but everyone must understand, Davenport said, "You will not be promoted until you attend the

appropriate level of PME."

Other upcoming changes include:

- Establishing the NCO Professional Development System (per Headquarters Department of the Army Execution Order 235-15).

- Renaming of the Warrior Leader Course to Basic Leader Course

- Using a digital job book that documents all training for Soldiers as part of the Digital Training Management System, or DTMS.

- Redesign of the USASMA.

- Establishment of the Institution for NCO Professional Development, or INCOPOD.

- Development of an Executive Leader Course for command sergeants major.

- Publicizing more broadening opportunities for NCOs.

- Providing a "digital rucksack" to students that includes course materials, apps and technical manuals.

- Requiring Army Service School Academic Reports, or DA 1059s, to include date of a Soldier's last physical fitness test, along with a height and weight statement.

The effective date of the last change and others may be determined by a proponenty conference taking place this week, Davenport said.

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2016 FEHB open season effective through Dec. 14

By Janis El Shabazz
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

The 2016 open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program and the Federal Flexible Spending Accounts Program run through Dec. 14.

During open season, employees and retirees will have the chance to review their current plans and make any changes they desire. For the first time, plan participants may now choose a "self plus one" option.

The self plus one option allows enrollees to cover themselves and one eligible family member. Eligibility for the

self plus one option is the same as for the self and family enrollment. Eligible family members include spouses and children under age 26; however, a child with a mental or physical disability that existed before age 26 is also eligible for enrollment as a family member.

"In many cases plan participants will see a savings in choosing self plus one coverage over self and family coverage, but that is not true in all cases," said Erica Cathro, an Air Force Personnel Center human resources specialist. "The formula used to calculate the government contribution is based on the average of all plan premiums and requires that the Office of Personnel Manage-

ment calculate a maximum contribution for each enrollment type. If a plan's premium costs exceed the government's allotted contribution for a self only, self plus one, or self and family enrollment, the employee must pay the remaining amount."

Cathro cautioned employees to pay close attention and compare the rates for FEHB self plus one versus self and family before making their coverage election for 2016.

OPM will open a "special enrollment period" in the month of February to allow active FEHB participants who would have been better served switching to self plus one coverage more time to make the change.

Some plans are leav-



Courtesy graphic

The 2016 Federal Employees Health Benefits open season has begun. Civilian employees and retirees can review their current plans and make changes needed for the FEHB program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, and the Federal Flexible Spending Accounts Program through Dec. 14.

ing the FEHB program at the end of 2015 or reducing their service areas and terminating their enrollment codes.

Employees in the terminating plans must enroll in another health plan to ensure they have health benefits for 2016.

Health care and limited expense flexible spending accounts will no longer have a grace period. Qualifying participants will now be able to carryover up to \$500 of unused funds. To be eligible for carryover, participants must have enrolled during open season or as a new hire during the year and must meet the following requirements:

- Be actively employed by a FSAFEDS participating agency and contributing to a FSA account through Dec. 31.
- Re-enroll for the next benefit period. If the employee does not re-enroll, the right to carryover funds will be forfeited.

See FEHB, P16

News Briefs

Continued from P3

ments for the pay period ending Jan. 23, 2016. FEDVIP elections are effective Jan. 1, 2016. The benefit period for health care and limited expense flexible spending accounts runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016. The benefit period for dependent care flexible spending accounts runs from Jan. 1 of the current year through March 15 of the following year. Federal employees can find more detailed information on making an open season election on the myPers website at <https://myPers.af.mil>.

Fort Sam Houston Museum Open

Take a step into history at the Fort Sam Houston Museum in the Quadrangle, building 16, the oldest structure on the installation. The museum chronicles the history of the Army in San Antonio from its arrival in 1845 to the present. Learn about the vital role Fort Sam Houston played in the development of the Army and connect with the Soldiers who served on this post. The museum offers numerous services for military members and their families to include professional development, neighborhood histories and special history searches for the kids. Admission to the museum is free to all active duty service members, retirees, civilians and family members. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday, Monday and federal holidays. For more information, call 221-1886.

Budge Dental Clinic Welcomes Army North, Army South Soldiers

The Budge Dental Clinic at 3145 Garden Ave. now provides dental treatment for all U.S. Army North and U.S. Army South Soldiers. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays. Call 808-3735 or 808-3736 for more information.

North New Braunfels, Harry Wurzbach West Access Control Points Open In Mornings

The North New Braunfels Access Control Point, located by the Quadrangle, and the Harry Wurzbach West ACP, also known as the Pershing Gate, are open for incoming and outgoing traffic from 5:30-8:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays, except on federal holidays, according to the 502nd Security Forces Squadron.

Geospatial engineering unit provides key information to U.S. Army South

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

A unique engineering unit in U.S. Army South provides geospatial support by collecting, analyzing, managing and disseminating real-time information using satellite imagery throughout Central and South America.

The 512th Geospatial Engineering Detachment, with its 34-member team, uses its available tools to create graphic products that help Soldiers visualize terrain before operations commence, which enables U.S. Army South personnel to execute operations effectively.

"We produce data for narrowing their

(Army South staff) focus so they can save time," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason Feser, commander, 512th Geospatial Engineering Detachment. "We have a big mission with a big chunk of terrain. Sometimes it can be daunting."

A key task of the detachment is to populate the Theater Geospatial Database. The database provides terrain visualization to help execute missions. The products include information on lines of communication, hurricane analysis data, landing and drop zones, and information on the existing infrastructure.

"A lot of the information we provide is if a project is feasible," said

geospatial engineer Sgt. Ray Thomas.

"For instance, we can help in the construction of roads based on the landscape. We can also tell if an existing road is passable using the slope of the landscape. A project we are working on is information on flooding due to the El Nino this year. We base our information on data collected from the last El Nino and predict impacted areas which can be subject to flooding."

El Nino is a warming of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, occurring every few years, that alters the weather pattern of the tropics and sometimes causes catastrophic weather conditions such as flood-



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason Feser, 512th Geospatial Engineer Detachment commander, uses the TerraExplorer to show 3-D graphic videos that are used to represent military operations. The program provides commanders with graphic information before operations begin to help make key decisions during the process of humanitarian operations.

ing and mudslides.

At Army South, most of the work the engineers perform is related to natural disasters.

The command's area of operations include Central and South America which, in the past, have been prone to natural disasters due to hurricanes, El Ninos and high winds associated with heavy flooding events.

"Humanitarian relief is what we mainly do," said geospatial engineer Sgt. Jeremy Taylor. "For instance, we provided geospatial information during Operation Unified Response in 2010 for disaster relief in Haiti."

The 512th Geospatial Engineering Detachment was able to provide route reconnaissance data, flood analysis and mudslide analysis for the joint task force commander during the international humanitarian response. They have also been involved in Honduras, the Dominican Republic, and are providing information for the upcoming 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Members of the 512th Geospatial Engineer Detachment discuss topographic information in the U.S. Army South area of operations during an office meeting at U.S. Army South headquarters on Fort Sam Houston Nov. 12. The 34-member team uses its available tools to create graphical products that help visualize terrain before operations commence which enables Army South personnel to execute operations effectively.

MEDICAL SOLDIERS EARN EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION BADGE IN RIFLE MATCH



Photo by Esther Garcia

(From left) Maj. Gen. Steve Jones, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, U.S. Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence, and AMEDDC&S, HRCoE Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Rhoades congratulate Sgt. 1st Class Clark Hitchcock and Sgt. James Gainan, who competed in the Excellence In Competition Rifle match at the Medina Firing Range on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Oct. 9. Hitchcock placed first and Gainan placed 20th out of 206 competitors. The event was hosted by the 37th Training Support Squadron Range Control and was open to all military of the Department of Defense and tested skills on an M-16 Rifle. Hitchcock and Gainan, both assigned to the Defense Medical Training Institute, earned a bronze EIC badge. In order to receive the badge, the shooter must place in the top 10 of competitors.

U.S. ARMY SOUTH BRIEFS MILITARY ATTACHES



Photo by Eric Lucero

Col. Kurt Pinkerton, the U.S. Army South chief of staff, gives a command presentation to members of the Washington Association of Military Attaches Nov. 2 at the Army South headquarters. The 35 military attaches toured Fort Sam Houston and received presentations on the missions and capabilities of the various commands on the post.

Local AMEDDC&S NCO inducted into Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

By Esther Garcia
AMEDDC&S, HRCoE
Public Affairs

Friends, noncommissioned officers, military leaders, members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and family members gathered at the 32nd Medical Brigade, building 902, Nov. 6 to witness Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Mollett, Headquarters, 264th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, U.S. Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence, become the newest member of the prestigious U.S. Army Medical Command Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

AMEDDC&S, HRCoE
Command Sgt. Maj.

Andrew Rhoades, host for the induction ceremony, presented Mollett the club's Medallion. Mollett also received the Army Commendation Medal for his selection into the club.

Rhoades praised the members of the Fort Sam Houston Sergeant Audie Murphy Club for their constant involvement with the community and supporting the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Command Sgt. Major Darlene Taylor from the 264th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, and a Sergeant Audie Murphy Club member, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony and spoke about what it takes to get inducted into the club.

"Being a Sergeant

Audie Murphy Club member and a professional NCO is about focusing on the basics necessary to take care of the Army's most valuable asset – the Soldier," Taylor said. "It's about having the knowledge, skill and motivation to guide them through personal and professional challenges. Today, with our Army in transition, these skills are more valuable than ever before."

An applicant must earn a 270 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test, be recommended by their chain of command, supervise at least two Soldiers and appear before a fast-paced, dynamic and confrontational board of senior leaders who ask tough questions.

When asked how he felt now he is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, Mollett said, "CSM Taylor hit the nail on the head. It is a very humbling experience, but it is not the accolades and the medallion after the fact, it is the experience itself that is rewarding. As long as you place the Soldier first, the mission will be complete."

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club was started in 1986 by Lt. Gen. Crosbie Saint at Fort Hood, Texas, to recognize outstanding noncommissioned officers who showed exemplary leadership traits



Photo by Esther Garcia

Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Rhoades (right), command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, U.S. Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence at Fort Sam Houston, presents the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club medallion to Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Mollett (center) at the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony held at the 32nd Medical Brigade, building 902, Nov. 6. The medallion is 2 inches in diameter and suspended on a powder blue ribbon representing the traditional color of the infantry. 264th Medical Battalion Command Sgt. Major Darlene Taylor (left) was keynote speaker for the ceremony and assisted in the presentation. Mollett is assigned to Headquarters, 264th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, AMEDDC&S, HRCoE.

and attributes.

In 2000, the Fort Sam Houston Sergeant Audie Murphy Club was established by then-Command Sgt. Maj. Adolph Arista who was the installation's command sergeant major at that time. In 2002, the club was redesignated as the Sergeant Major of the Army Van Autreve Chapter, named after the 4th Sergeant Major of the Army, Leon Van Autreve.

Sgt. Audie Murphy was the highest decorated Soldier during World

War II. He is known as a war hero, writer, writer of country and western songs and a poet.

Earning the Distinguished Service Cross during combat, Murphy spent some 400 days on the front lines, earning a battle-field commission and more than 33 military awards, citations and decorations, including three French and one Belgian medal. Murphy was also awarded the Medal of Honor.

After he left the Army, Murphy joined the 35th Infantry Division of the

Texas National Guard and served with them until 1966. He wrote and published several poems and starred in several films such as "Gunsmoke," "The Red Badge of Courage" and his biological work, "To Hell and Back" and even earned a star on the famous Hollywood walk of fame.

Murphy was killed in a plane crash on a mountain top near Roanoke, Va., on May 28, 1971, at 46 years old. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



TRICARE Young Adult premiums will increase Jan. 1, 2016

Premiums for the Military Health System's benefit plan for adult children between 23 and 26 years old have been announced. The premiums for TRICARE Young Adult, or TYA, program will increase on Jan. 1, 2016 to \$306 per month for TYA Prime and \$228 per month for TYA Standard.

Offering the option to have young adults covered under these plans falls in line with what all Americans are able to do with their adult children under the Affordable Care Act," said Mary Kaye Justis, director of the TRICARE Health Plan. "We want to make sure those wanting this coverage know all the facts as they go into the open enrollment season for health care plans in this country."

Justis explained the increase is due to the requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011 that TRICARE set TYA premiums to cover the full cost of health care received by the program's beneficiaries.

Previous years' premiums were lower because



TRICARE did not yet have sufficient cost data to set annual premiums. This coming year marks the first time TRICARE has had enough actual cost data to set the premiums based on actual costs rather than predicted cost.

"We are required by law to be cost-neutral to the government, so the premiums had to be raised to cover the actual cost of care," Justis said.

TYA offers very generous, competitive coverage for young adults, Justis said. Although the premiums do not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2016, TRICARE leaders want to make sure TYA beneficiaries have all the facts now to make the best decision possible, based on their needs and circumstances, during the open enrollment season from Nov. 1, 2015, through Jan. 31, 2016.

"We like having young

adults in our system and welcome them to stay on," Justis said. "But they do have options."

Other health care options for young adult beneficiaries include:

- Purchasing TYA Standard – lower premiums, higher cost shares – instead of TYA Prime

- Enrolling in a parent's civilian health insurance plan, if available

- Purchasing coverage through the college or university, if enrolled

- Purchasing a plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace at <http://www.healthcare.gov>.

Lower cost plans may be available depending on income and residence, and assistance paying premiums may be available if beneficiaries qualify for government subsidies through commercial plans.

Visit <http://www.tricare.mil/TYA> for more information.

(Source: Defense Health Agency)

ARMY SOUTH CG HONORS BUFFALO SOLDIERS



Photo by Eric Lucero

Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, U.S. Army South commanding general, joined several distinguished guests to pay tribute to Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers during a commemorative ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery Nov. 11.

WARRIOR CARE MONTH



Soldiers take the reins of their recovery in equine therapy

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

Transitioning warriors have a plethora of activities to choose from in the Soldier Adaptive Reconditioning Program at Fort Sam Houston, but only one involves a 1,000-pound animal.

Every Tuesday, Soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion have the opportunity to go horseback riding at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center.

Part of the equine therapy is learning to care for and bond with the animal as well as ride, explained Annie Blakely, a certified and registered Professional Association of Thera-

peutic Horsemanship instructor. PATH is a global authority, resource and advocate for equine-assisted activities and therapies.

According to the Equine Assisted Therapy website (<http://eatherapy.org/>), this type of therapy can help people both physically and mentally by improving respiration, circulation, balance, metabolism, muscle strength and agility.

Army Staff Sgt. Cedric Richardson never rode a horse before he started the program three months ago.

"When I come out here, I'm having fun with the animal, but I'm also taking care of the animal," Richardson said. "I'm learning a



Army Sgt. Andrea Kraus brushes her horse after a ride at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Nov. 10. Kraus rides every Tuesday as part of the Soldier Adaptive Reconditioning Program at Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion.

new skill in horseback riding. It's unique and different if you haven't grown up doing it."

Richardson usually rides Gary.

"I think he's one of the biggest horses out here," Richardson noted. "He's very energetic and he has the muscle to match, so you have to



Sgt. Jeffrey Long learns to control his horse at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Nov. 10. Equine Assisted Therapy is one of several activities available to service members recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion.

really know what you are doing and have confidence when you ride him."

"When I bring people out here to the equestri-

See HORSEBACK, P18



Soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion ride horses at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center on Tuesdays as part of the recovery process. Equine Assisted Therapy can help people both physically and mentally by improving respiration, circulation, balance, metabolism, muscle strength and agility.



Army Staff Sgt. Cedric Richardson rides Gary at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center Nov. 10. This is one of several activities available to transitioning Soldiers through the Soldier Adaptive Reconditioning Program at Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion.

Photos by Lori Newman



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

December

Arts and Crafts

Special memories deserve custom frames

Frame holiday memories or create a gift with help from the JBASA-Lackland Frame Shop. Framing professionals are ready to help make the best selections for art, photos, prints and more. For more information, call 671-5503.

Experts at the JBASA-Randolph Community Services Mall, building 895, are available to help create the perfect custom frame for certificates, artwork or photographs. The Frame Shop matches any off-base price on a comparable custom framing job and there is no sales tax. For more information, call 652-5142.

Bowling

The Bowling Center has gifts for everyone

Stop by the JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center Pro Shop for a 10-25 percent discount on selected balls, bags and shoes now through Dec. 23. For more information, call 652-6271.

Santa and the Grinch join in holiday bowling

Visit the JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center for pictures with Santa and the Grinch Dec. 12, 9 a.m., and bowl with them 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 per child and includes two games of bowling, rental shoes, refreshments, a goodie bag and photos. For more information, call 652-6271.

The JBASA-Lackland Bowling Center offers youth, 12 years and younger, an opportunity to meet the Grinch, bowl and enjoy light refreshments Dec. 19, 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$5 per child. For more information, call 671-1234.

Holidays bring about bowling special

Bowl at the JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 21-24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for \$2.50 per game, per person. Shoe rental is \$2.50. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowling is unlimited

Enjoy an early present from the JBASA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Dec. 23, 2-10 p.m. Pay \$20 per lane for unlimited bowling with rental shoes included. For more information, call 221-4740.

Discounts are offered before and after Christmas

The JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center offers a discount bowling special Dec. 24, noon to 4 p.m. Bowl for \$1.50 per game, per person with a \$2.50 shoe rental or purchase the rent-a-lane special for two hours of bowling, a 16-ounce soda for each group member and a large pizza for \$40. This special does not include rental shoes.

The JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center holds open bowling Dec. 26, 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per game, per person and rental shoes are \$2.50. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowling center closes Christmas Day

The JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center is closed Dec. 25. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowlers compete in tournament

The JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center hosts the Military Bowling Championship Tune-up Tournament Dec. 28, 7 p.m. This is a four-game scratch singles format and cost is \$50. Prizes are given to first-, second- and third-place winners. For more information, call 652-6271.

New Year's Eve is celebrated at the Bowling Center

Enjoy open bowling at the JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per game, per person and rental shoes are \$2.50.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the JBASA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 31, 8 p.m., with an adults-only party. Participate in three games of Colorama Bowling with cash prizes. Cost is \$30 per person and includes a complimentary glass of champagne to toast in 2016. Breakfast is served afterwards. Reservations are accepted beginning Dec. 1. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowling balls are detoxed for a better game

Resurrect bowling balls at the JBASA-Lackland Bowling Center Pro Shop with the detox machine. Avoid the cost of a new ball by removing oil from deep in the surface using warm water, a mild cleaning agent and high-energy bubbles. Cost is \$20 per ball. For more information, call 671-1234.

Clubs

Music and food is offered during deck night

Stop by the JBASA-Randolph Parr Club for Deck Night Dec. 3, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy food and live music. The bar is available 4:30-8 p.m. and the buffet is open 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$8 for members, \$13 for nonmembers and \$6.50 for children 6-12 years. Coupons are not accepted. For more information, call 658-7445.

The chef prepares specials for every palate

The JBASA-Lackland Gateway Club chef creates a special evening dining experience in the Mesquite Dining Room, 5-8 p.m. The Dec. 4 menu features bacon-wrapped filet mignon with port wine sauce, sautéed jumbo shrimp, Duchess potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower florets and a house salad. The Dec. 11 menu features prime rib au jus, twice-baked potatoes, asparagus spears with red peppers and house salad. The Dec. 18 menu includes a porterhouse steak with mushrooms and onions, baked potato, grilled corn on the cob and a house salad. Cost is \$16.95 for members and \$18.95 for nonmembers. For more information, call 645-7034.

Nightlife is full of fun at the club

The JBASA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts First Friday in the Maverick Lounge Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., with Doggin' Dave Productions. Enjoy bar food, cold drinks, good friends and great music. Variety Nights are held in the Lone Star Lounge Dec. 4 and 11, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., with DJ J Rock and Dec. 5 and 18, 6-11 p.m., with DJ LJU. For more information, call 645-7034.

Fly-in turns old school

Join old school camaraderie at the JBASA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn Dec. 4 and 18, 5 p.m., with free refreshments and a live band. For more information, call 652-4864.

Club hosts bingo events

The JBASA-Randolph Kendrick Club holds kiddie bingo with Santa Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children 12 years and younger play five games of bingo for free and can win door prizes. There is a complimentary buffet for children and adults may order from the Gil's Pub grill menu.

The JBASA-Randolph Kendrick Club hosts a bingo extravaganza Dec. 7 with \$15,000 in total jackpots, a free buffet at 5 p.m. and Early Bird Bingo at 6 p.m.

Celebrate December birthdays with bingo at the JBASA-Randolph Kendrick Club Dec. 8. Birthday members get one free machine, cake and lots of fun. This is for Randolph club members only. ID and club card required.

Bingo players are appreciated Dec. 17, 5 p.m., at the JBASA-Randolph Kendrick Club. The evening includes a complimentary dinner with a 6-ounce prime rib, two crab legs, baked potato, vegetables, green salad mix and an assortment of desserts. Door prizes are drawn throughout the night and participants must have an active club card, proof of bingo card purchase or a ticket to receive a meal.

The JBASA-Randolph Kendrick Club hosts a Super Holiday Extravaganza Dec. 21 with \$20,000 in jackpots and a complimentary buffet at 4:30 p.m. Early bird bingo begins at 6 p.m.

Participate in New Year's Eve bingo Dec. 31, 3 p.m. at the JBASA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Enjoy complimentary champagne and a dessert bar. Players must show purchase receipt to participate. For more information, call 652-3056.

December birthdays are celebrated with food

Celebrate December birthdays with a buffet at the JBASA-Randolph Parr Club Dec. 8, 4:30-7:30 p.m. The buffet includes salad, two vegetables, two starches, two entrées, soup and birthday cake. This is free for birthday members. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$5.95 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$13.95 for nonmembers and \$7.95 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. For more information, call 652-4864.

JBSA FSS

Santa visits for brunch

Meet Santa at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for brunch Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children can take photos with Santa and receive a candy cane while Santa listens to Christmas wishes. All children are invited to enter for prize drawings. For more information, call 658-7445.

Guests mix and mingle during the holidays

Celebrate the holidays with drink specials, music and a possible visit from Santa at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club Christmas Mixx Dec. 18, 5 p.m. Office gift exchanges may also be held here. For more information, call 652-3056.

Holiday meals are prepared by the club

Save time during the holidays by taking advantage of the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club's holiday meals-to-go now through Dec. 19. A 12-14 pound roast turkey costs \$45 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. A 9-11 pound glazed Virginia pit ham costs \$50 for members and \$55 for nonmembers. Meals include cornbread stuffing, whipped potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and apple pie. Cost for the turkey meal is \$75 for members and \$80 for nonmembers. Cost for the ham meal is \$85 for members and \$90 for nonmembers. Orders must be placed two days before pickup. Cost for preheated meals is \$15 and requests must be made when the order is placed. The last day to order is Dec. 17 and the last day to pick up is Dec. 19. Coupon are not accepted. For more information, call 645-7034.

The club welcomes a new year

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Lone Star Lounge Dec. 31, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. DJ DeeDee entertains with music and karaoke while guests spend time with friends and enjoy food from the bar menu. Doors open at 7 p.m. For more information, call 645-7034.

Community Programs

Families are invited to holiday tree lighting ceremonies

Attend the JBSA-Lackland annual tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 1, 6 p.m., at the Gateway Club main entrance. Enjoy entertainment while Santa visits with children. For more information, call 925-9914.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston tree-lighting ceremony is held Dec. 2, 6 p.m., at the flag pole on Stanley Road. Festivities include cookies, crafts, hay rides, a visit from Santa and the Grinch, real snow with a slide and music. This event is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP and Starbucks®. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information, call 652-5763.

The JBSA-Randolph annual tree-lighting ceremony is held at Washington Circle Dec. 3, 6 p.m. Entertainment and light refreshments are provided and Santa visits with children at the Taj Mahal. Washington Circle traffic is rerouted beginning at 4 p.m. This event is sponsored by First Command. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 652-4931.

Fitness

Zumba® lovers dance off calories

Burn calories at the Fitness Center on the Medical Education and Training Campus located on JBSA-Fort

The Moscow Ballet's **Great Russian Nutcracker**

Dec. 27 1 p.m. & 5 p.m. Dec. 28 8 p.m.

Create a holiday memory to last a lifetime



The Majestic Theatre offers active-duty military and retirees and their families, discounted tickets saving up to \$20 per ticket. TicketMaster fees apply.

Stop by JBSA-Lackland's Information, Tickets & Travel, Bldg. 5506, early for the best selection. For more information, call 671-3059.

Sam Houston Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with Zumba® Fest. Department of Defense ID cardholders workout for two hours of Latin-inspired dance with an array of instructors. Cost is \$10 and participants receive a T-shirt and refreshments. For more information, call 808-5713.

Bikers stay in shape with holiday bike ride

All Department of Defense ID cardholders can join in a 10-mile bike ride with the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center Dec. 5, 8 a.m., at Eberle Park. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. For more information, call 652-7263.

Indoor marathon encourages self-improvement

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center hosts an indoor marathon Dec. 7-11 during normal business hours. This self-monitored program is based on the honor system and participants complete 26.2 miles running or walking within one business week. Participants may pick up a card to track progress at the front desk. This program is open to Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 652-7263.

Basketball challenge adds to the holidays

Join the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center Dec. 11, 6 p.m., for the Holiday Basketball Challenge. Challenges include a three-on-three tournament, a three-point contest, a youth shootout and a shooting stars challenge. For more information, call 671-2016.

Train to save

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatic Center offers a lifeguard certification course Dec. 19-22. Cost is \$160 per

student, 15 years and older. The course is a total of 32 hours and students must be able to pass a prerequisite swim test.

The JBSA-Lackland Aquatic Center has a heated indoor pool for lap swimming Monday, noon to 1 p.m. and Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open swim is Monday - Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 12:30-4:40 p.m. Swim lessons for youth 3 years and older and for adults are available. For more information, call 671-3780.

Fitness runs into the new year

All Department of Defense ID cardholders are invited to participate in the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston New Year's Eve 5K run or walk at midnight Dec. 31. The event begins at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and refreshments are available afterwards. For more information, call 221-1234.

Golf

Golfers compete in a scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior Four-Person Scramble Dec. 4 with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers and includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, golf cart, dinner and gift certificates for the winners of longest drive and closest to the pin. The first-, second- and third-place winners also receive gift certificates. For more information, call 222-9386.

Golf course sets holiday hours

Mulligan's Grill at the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course is closed Dec. 24. The Pro Shop and Golf Course is open Dec. 24 and the entire facility is closed Dec. 25. For more information, call 652-4653.

The 502d Force Support Squadron, The Harlequin Dinner Theatre and THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP present



Tinseltown

A Christmas Music Revue featuring the best of Hollywood's Classics plus today's Big Screen Favorites

Nov. 27 to Dec. 19 & Dec. 26

Box Office 222-9694

MyJBSA-FSS.com

JBSA FSS

Junior golfers take holiday golf lessons

The JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course holds junior holiday golf classes Dec. 26-30. Children 8-11 years meet 10:30 a.m. to noon each day. Children 12-15 years meet 1-2:30 p.m. each day. Classes are limited to 10 golfers, cost is \$40 per child and each class is lead by a Professional Golfers' Association teaching professional. For more information, call 244-3415.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Theme park fun is ongoing

JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel, located in the Community Services Mall, building 895, has daily passes to SeaWorld®. Adult passes are \$60 and passes are \$50 for children 3-9 years. The park is open weekends through Dec. 31 and the Waves of Honor™ promotion is offered to active-duty military and ends Dec. 31.

JBSA-Randolph ITT also has discount passes to Six Flags®, open weekends to Jan. 3, 2016. For more information, call 652-5142.

Valentine's Day is celebrated with a cruise

Take a cruise to the western Caribbean Feb. 13-18, 2016. JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel offers a five-day Carnival Cruise sailing from Galveston, Texas to Progreso and Cozumel. Rates start at \$394 per person for an inside cabin, \$444 per person for an ocean view and \$574 per person for a room with a balcony. Gratuities are not included. A \$50 per person deposit and a \$10 service fee are due at booking. Final payment is due Dec. 11. For more information, call 671-3059.

Disney is waiting

Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel for Disney tickets. The special admission ticket for active-duty military and retirees has been extended until Dec. 17. The limit of tickets that can be purchased has increased from six to 12 per military member or retiree. Military members must accompany the group to the gate to activate the tickets. Tickets are \$175.50 for a four-day park hopper with four additional days for Disney water parks and Disney Quest for \$250.50. The additional four day admissions must be used within 13 days of the original tickets. The JBSA-Lackland ITT also carries three-day park hopper admission tickets for \$130. For more information, call 671-3059.

Discount tickets for holiday show available

The Majestic Theatre offers active-duty military, retirees and their families discounted tickets to see the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker. Stop by JBSA-Lackland's Information, Tickets and Travel early for the best selection. Tickets are available for Dec. 27, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. and Dec. 28, 8 p.m. All ages feel the spirit of the season as the renowned, award-winning dancers thrill the audience with stunning leaps, turns and drops. Ticketmaster® fees apply. For more information, call 671-3059.

Spurs tickets available

The JBSA-Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel has discounted Spurs tickets with no Ticketmaster® fees. Come

into the office or get the ITT discount online at www.spurs.com/lacklanditt. Use the promotion code: LACKLAND. For more information, call 671-3059.

Library

Family roots run deep

Participate in the JBSA-Lackland Library genealogical research workshop Dec. 13, 2 p.m. Receive an introduction to online tools, learn search techniques and discover websites available through the Bibliotech Digital Library that aid in locating ancestors. Registration is not required. For more information, call 671-2673.

JBSA libraries put on special holiday story time

Enjoy a holiday story or two plus an activity at the JBSA libraries. Holiday story time is hosted at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. The JBSA-Lackland Library holds holiday story time Dec. 15, 10 a.m., and the JBSA-Randolph Library celebrates the holidays with story time Dec. 16, 10 a.m. No registration is required. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library at 221-4702; the JBSA-Lackland Library at 671-2673 and the JBSA-Randolph Library at 652-5578.

Military & Family Readiness

Computer skills are enhanced during training

Review the latest version of Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel and Word at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. Microsoft PowerPoint level 1 is Dec. 1 and level two is Dec. 3. Microsoft Excel is Dec. 8. Microsoft Word level 1 is Dec. 15 and level 2 is Dec. 17. Classes are

8 a.m. to noon and are open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 221-2380.

Workshop teaches how to understand savings plan

Learn the major functions, investment options and more about the Thrift Savings Plan at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center, Dec. 2, 9:30-10:30 a.m. For more information, call 221-2380.

Participants learn tips for purchasing a new or used car

Join the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center Dec. 3, 1-2:30 p.m., for tips to help avoid classic sales traps and pitfalls associated with purchasing a car. For more information, call 671-3722.

Parents prepare for a new baby

Participate in the Bundles for Babies workshop at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center Dec. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., or at the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC Dec. 9, 1-4:30 p.m. Active-duty expecting parents receive information on financial planning, support groups and parenting skills. For more information, call the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 652-5321 or the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 671-3722.

Fortune 500 companies to hire military patrons

Service members, veterans and military spouses prepare for a transition summit and hiring fair Dec. 9, 4 p.m. and Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Community Center. The two-day workshop features informative and interactive panel events, recruiter training, focused discussions on improving competitive employment, and a networking reception. To register visit <http://www.hiringourheroes.org>. For more information, call 221-2705.

Workshop focuses on the interview process

Participate in the Interviewing Skills workshop at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to noon, or the Interview and Dress for Success workshop at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m. These workshops focus on the importance of preparation, how to research prospective employers, how to discover ways to make a connection during an interview and how to answer questions during an interview. For more information, call the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 652-5321 and the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 221-2380.

Army Family Team Building has a birthday celebration

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center celebrates the establishment of the Army Family Team Building program Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. Army Family Team Building is a family training and readiness program that provides participants with a better understanding of the military culture, as well as the skills and resources needed to become resilient, self-sufficient and self-reliant. For more information, call 221-2705.

Single parents connect

The JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center hosts a brown-bag forum Dec. 17, noon to 1 p.m., to bring single parents together and share helpful resources and ways to overcome challenges. Focus on stress

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JBSA FSS

management relaxation techniques followed by an open discussion. Registration is not required. For more information, call 652-5321.

Families attend a sensory-friendly movie

The Exceptional Family Members Program and the Family Life Program invite JBSA families to a sensory-friendly showing of "Author's Christmas," Dec. 21, 1-3 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 221-2705.

Facilities close for the holidays

All JBSA Military & Family Readiness Centers are closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31 for the holidays.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC is closed on the first and third Thursday of each month, 1-4 p.m., for in-service training.

The JBSA-Lackland M&FRC is closed on the first and third Thursday of each month, 2-4 p.m., for in-service training. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC at 221-2418, the JBSA-Lackland M&FRC at 671-3722 and the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC at 652-5321.

Deployment briefing changes schedule

Beginning January 2016, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center offers briefings for post-deployment Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. Pre-deployment briefings are 9-11 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month and 1-3 p.m. the second, fourth and fifth Thursday. For more information, call 221-2418.

Outdoor Recreation

Concealed handgun license class offered

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center provides concealed handgun license classes Dec. 5 and 12, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Successful completion of this class is required for a Texas CHL. Cost is \$65. Students must be 21 years and older or active-duty military 18 years and older to participate. This program is for Department of Defense ID cardholders only. For more information, call 363-2332.

Archery takes on another dimension

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a three-dimensional archery competition Dec. 19-20, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is 8-10 a.m. and the course must be completed by 1 p.m. The fun shoot is \$15, the competition shoot is \$20 and children 12 years and younger participate for \$5. For more information, call 295-7529.

Boat rentals are half price

Rent any boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for half price during December. Cost includes safety equipment; fuel is not included. Rentals are on a first-come, first-serve basis and completion of the Boater's Safety Course through the state of Texas, a JBSA Outdoor Recreation office or JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake is mandatory. For more information, call 830-226-5357.

The JBSA-Lackland Equipment Rental offers half-price weekend boat rentals through the end of February. Prices vary depending on the size and type of boat. Weekend check outs begin Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and end Monday, 3 p.m. For more information, call 925-5533.

Cottages are discounted

Rent a cottage at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for \$75 a night Monday through Thursday during the month of December. Cottages include three bedrooms with a queen-size bed in each room, a full bathroom, a full kitchen, a fully furnished living room with a television and a Blu-ray DVD player. Each cottage accommodates up to eight people and linens are provided. For more information, call 830-226-5357.

Youth and Children

Boys enjoy a night in

The JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs hosts the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Passport to Manhood Lock-in Dec. 4, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. This event is for boys in sixth grade and higher. Cost is \$15 per person and sign up is available through the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center, building 1630, and the Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. For more information, call 221-3630.

Gifts are created at the Winter Craftapalooza

Youth 5 years and older are invited to the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Dec. 5, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a day of creating holiday gifts. Cost is \$5 per child and sign up ends Dec. 2. For more information, call 652-3298.

Youth have a ball at the winter dance

Join the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs for the Winter Ball Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m. This event is for youth 9-12 years and cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Light snacks are provided. For more information, call 652-2088.

Parents get a break

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs presents Give Parents A Break Dec. 12, 1-5 p.m. Parents drop off children 5-12 years at Youth Programs for activities, entertainment and snacks. Cost is \$25 per child with multiple child discounts or free with a GPAB referral. Preregistration is required. Parents with children 6 months to 5 years can call 671-3675 to make reservations. For more information, call 671-2388.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts Give Parents a Break/Kids Adventure Night Dec. 12, 1-5 p.m. Registration is Dec. 1-9. This event is at the Child Development Programs Annex for children 2 years and younger and at Youth Programs for children 3 years and older. Cost is \$25 with a multiple-child discount and free for GPAB waiver holders. For more information, call 652-4946.

Youth programs available for free

Bring youth to participate in membership free week in celebration of Month of the Military Family Dec. 14-18 at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs. No membership is needed to participate in clubs, activities or open recreation. This program does not include instructional classes, league sports and School Age Programs. Regular membership is \$36 per year. For more information, call 652-3298.

Teens are locked in

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs, building 1630, hosts a Teen Lock-In with lots of fun, food, sports and music Dec. 18, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person or \$5 for current Keystone Club members. For more information, call 221-3502.

Youth join JBSA-Fort Sam Houston holiday camp

Registration for the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs holiday camp is ongoing and ends Dec. 9. Register youth at Parent Central, building 2530. Camp runs Dec. 23-24 and 28-31. Pre-registration is required and cost is based on total family income for participants in kindergarten to seventh grade. Cost for youth in eighth grade and higher is \$100 for the week or \$30 per day. For more information, call 221-4871.

Youth join JBSA-Lackland holiday camp

Parents working through the holidays are invited to enroll children 5 years and in kindergarten to 12 years, in the JBSA-Lackland School Age Programs for safe and fun activities Dec. 21-24. Deadline to register for camp is Dec. 7. Camps include field trips and are closed during observed holidays and have reduced hours on Air Education and Training Command Family Days.

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs offers youth, 9-18 years, a chance to sharpen basketball skills at Holiday Basketball Camp Dec. 28-30, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$50 per child with lunch included. The deadline to sign up is Dec. 14.

Sign up for the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Robotics and Photography Camp. Robotics camp runs Dec. 21-23 and sign up ends Dec. 7. Photography camp runs Dec. 28-30 and sign up ends Dec. 14. Both camps are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and cost is \$50 per child, per camp.

Sign ups for all holiday camps made after registration deadlines are subject to a \$15 late fee and availability. For more information, call 671-2388.

Youth join JBSA-Randolph holiday camp

Registration for the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs holiday camp is ongoing and ends Dec. 11. Camp runs Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28-29. This program is open to youth in kindergarten through sixth grade, 5-12 years. Placement is based on eligibility priority. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file. For more information, call 652-2088.

Artwork is displayed

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs hosts the Annual Boys and Girls Club National Fine Arts Exhibit Jan. 7-8. The deadline for submitting artwork is Dec. 18. For more information, call 652-2088.

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Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<http://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com>



WARRIOR CARE MONTH



By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Brooke Army Medical Center on Fort Sam Houston often have to deal with more than just the business of soldiering. Many deal with chronic pain and medical appointments along with their daily routine.

Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Goldenstein, WTB reception non-commissioned officer, understands this better than most people do because she also has chronic pain.

"I've been a warrior in transition, so I understand the frustration Soldiers experience when they are trying to heal and deal with all the other stuff they have on a daily basis," she said.

Goldenstein suffers from femoroacetabular impingement, a condition that affects her hip joints.

According to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, femoroacetabular impingement, or FAI, is a condition where the bones of the hip are abnormally shaped. Because they do not fit

together perfectly, the hipbones rub against each other and cause damage to the joint.

"My hips are pretty much destroyed at this point," Goldenstein said. "I've had two surgeries already and the doctors told me I will need total hip replacement in the future."

Once an avid long-distance runner, Goldenstein could not run as much as she did before. Adaptive cycling helped fill a void and helped reduce her pain.

"I did a couple of trips with Ride to Recovery and really got

into cycling," she said. "That was my jump-start into the adaptive sports realm."

Goldenstein became an adaptive sports site coordinator at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"It was a good fit because of my fitness background," she explained. She has a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology and nutrition from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Goldenstein and Army veteran Dave Smith currently run the adaptive cycling program at Fort Sam Houston.

One Soldier, Capt. Michael Rash, appreciates Goldenstein's dedication and guidance.

"She's focused on the cycling performance, teaching us how to stay in our lines or how to do certain things while we are cycling," Rash said. "She inspires you, keeps you going and keeps pushing you."

Rash received internal injuries from a bomb blast in 2007 and since then, he hasn't been able to do the things he did before his injury.

"I couldn't run, do push-ups or sit-ups after the injury," he said. "Riding a bike has changed my life. I was able to get back out and get physically active doing something, besides sitting around and gaining weight from not being able to



Photo by Lori Newman

Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Goldenstein practice rides at the Brooke Army Medical Center Warrior Transition Battalion Nov. 17. She works out inside during inclement weather.

be active."

He said other wounded service members inspire him. He gave an example of a recent ride he was on where the weather conditions were very poor and he was hurting badly.

"A quadruple ampu-

tee riding an upright bike rode past me. I told myself, 'If that guy can do this, I've got to do this.' It's seeing people like that who inspire me to keep going," he said.

Rash has participated



Photo by Sgt. Eric Lieber

Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Goldenstein competes in the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. June 15, 2014.

See CYCLIST, P18

CID from P2

education at the FBI National Academy, Metropolitan Policy Academy at Scotland Yard and the Canadian Police College.

“Our mission is felony investigations and anything associated with Title 10 criminal investigations,” Welch said. “We work hand-in-hand with U.S. attorneys, local law enforcement agencies, the FBI, DEA, and ATF.”

CID Special Agents also conduct computer crime investigations, polygraph services, criminal intelligence collection and analysis, and provide personal security services, much like the U.S. Secret Service, for key Department of Defense and Army officials.

For many CID Special Agents like Welch, however, the mission is second to the difference they make.

“There is no better feeling than helping people through your investigative efforts, whether it be helping an individual or helping a community,” he said.

“Wanted” Soldiers must be U.S. citizens at least 21-years-old and a

maximum rank of sergeant (non-promotable). Promotable sergeants and staff sergeants with one year or less time-in-grade may apply with a waiver.

All applicants must have at least two years - but not more than 10 years- time-in-service, have an ST score of 107 or higher (110 or higher if tested prior to January 2, 2002), have at least 60 college credit hours (waiver of up to half of this prerequisite may be considered), and have normal color vision and no record of mental or emotional disorders.

Additionally, they must be able to speak and write clearly, attain and maintain a Top Secret-Single Scope Background Investigation security clearance, no record of unsatisfactory credit and no felony or court-martial convictions.

Lastly, they must be able to complete 36 months of service obligation upon completion of the CID Special Agent Course.

Soldiers with a passion for real detective work and the above qualifications are “Wanted” by CID and can start the application process at <http://www.cid.army.mil>.

FEHB from P5

- Dependent care FSAs will continue to have a grace period each year and are not eligible to carryover funds from one year to the next.

There are no significant changes to the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program.

Employees can make health benefits elections through the Employee Benefits Information System,

which can be accessed through the “Civilian Employee” homepage of the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil/>.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to the myPers website. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/mypers/index.asp>.

U.S., France to strengthen intelligence sharing

By Cheryl Pellerin
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

In the wake of the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris, the United States and France will strengthen intelligence sharing to the fullest extent allowed by law, Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said in a statement Nov. 16.

The United States over the past year has worked closely with the French military, intelligence and security services to strengthen intelligence sharing against counterterrorism threats around the globe, he said, specifically those from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

"In the wake of the recent attack on France, we stand strong and firm with our oldest ally," Cook said, "which is why the U.S. and France have decided to bolster our intelligence sharing."

Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper have issued new instructions that will make it easier for U.S. military personnel to share operational planning information and intelligence with French counterparts "to the fullest extent allowed by existing law

and policy," Cook added.

The new guidance stresses the strong U.S.-French security partnership and builds on longstanding cooperation that will improve the department's ability to deter and defeat mutual enemies, particularly ISIL, he said.

Also during a briefing with defense reporters Nov. 16, Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said Carter has spoken twice since the Nov. 13 attacks with his French counterpart, Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, with both leaders agreeing to deepen military cooperation over a broad area of common interests.

Last night, as part of the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition fighting ISIL in Iraq and Syria, France conducted a strike near Raqqa, Syria, "with the full coalition weight and support behind them," Davis said.

Davis said the targets were nominated by France based on information the United States was able to share with them thanks to the new intelligence-sharing special instruction.

"We're continuously seeking out and assessing potential ISIL targets," he added.

Once a target is validated, Davis said, "we take great care, from analysis of available intelligence to selection of the appropriate weapon to meet mission requirements and to minimize the risk of collateral damage, particularly any harm to noncombatants."

As part of a broader operation called Tidal Wave II targeting ISIL oil revenues, Davis said, the coalition destroyed 116 tanker trucks using A-10 fighters and AC-130 gunships Nov. 16.

Since the start of Operation Tidal Wave II in October, the coalition has conducted a massive strike on Omar oil field near Deir el-Zour, Syria, Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren said Nov. 13.

"We've stepped up our attack and focused our targeting on other oil facilities to include al-Tanakh and several others," he said.

Davis said the current phase of Tidal Wave II is designed to attack the distribution component of ISIL's oil-smuggling operation and degrade its capacity to fund military operations.

"ISIL steals oil from the people of Iraq and Syria



Photo by Marine Cpl. Leah Agler

U.S. Marine aviation ordnance technicians with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-232, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, prepare an F/A-18 Hornet to launch for a strike mission in Southwest Asia, June 9, 2015. Pilots of VMFA-232 support Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve with a combination of surveillance flights and kinetic strike missions, enabling Iraqi Security Forces in their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

to fund its campaign of terror," he added.

"The long-term effects of this effort to degrade ISIL oil revenue will take some time to be fully realized," Davis noted, "but we know that in the short term we are disrupting this significant source of funding that's being used to kill innocent people and we are in the process

of warning civilians to stay clear of oil infrastructure."

The U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, has implemented a travel restriction to France that applies to all DOD personnel, Davis said.

"Until further notice, U.S. European Command has prohibited unofficial

travel to Paris, and for DOD personnel who are traveling outside Paris, it requires a higher level of approval to go," he added.

The policy applies to military personnel, DOD civilian employees, contractors and command-sponsored dependents and their families, Davis said.

Obama: U.S., allies will redouble efforts in wake of ISIL attacks

By Jim Garamone
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

The G-20 meeting in Antalya, Turkey, that ended Nov. 16 was supposed to address the economy. But the Nov. 13 terrorist attack on Paris changed that agenda, and President

Barack Obama pledged to redouble efforts against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

ISIL took credit for the attacks on Paris that killed 129 people and wounded more than 350. French aircraft bombed ISIL's quasi-capital city of Raqqa in

Syria Nov. 15.

"We're working closely with our French partners as they pursue their investigations and track down suspects," the president said during a news conference. "France is already a strong counterterrorism partner, and today we're announcing a

new agreement. We're streamlining the process by which we share intelligence and operational military information with France."

Paris was just the latest attack; ISIL hit Beirut last week and Turkey last month. The terror group also claimed to have plant-

ed a bomb aboard a Russian airliner that crashed in Sinai.

"Here at the G-20, our nations have sent an unmistakable message: that we are united against this threat," Obama said. "ISIL is the face of evil. Our goal, as I've said many times, is to degrade and ultimate-

ly destroy this barbaric terrorist organization."

Obama said the effort will use all elements of power to take out the group: military, diplomatic, law enforcement and economic. He cautioned that this strategy will take time to be

WARRIOR CARE MONTH



Warrior Care Month shines spotlight on the achievements of wounded, ill and injured service members

By Tim Pearce
DOD Office of Warrior Care Policy,
Wounded Warriors

Many professionals working in the Department of Defense make it their year-round mission to ensure exceptional care is provided to wounded, ill and injured service members.

However, November is an especially important time for those working in the field of warrior care. In 2008, November was officially designated as Warrior Care Month; a month dedicated to honoring the courage, resilience and accomplishments of wounded, ill, and injured service members, their families, and their caregivers.

This year's Warrior Care Month theme is "Show of Strength."

"The theme 'Show of Strength' is about recognizing the mental and physical resilience consistently demonstrated by our wounded, ill, and injured service members, as well as acknowledging the critical support provided by families and caregivers," said James Rodriguez, deputy assistant secre-

tary of Defense for Warrior Care Policy. "Show of Strength also underscores the DOD's ongoing commitment to policy, programs and resources that enable wounded, ill and injured service members to thrive as they embrace a new normal."

Throughout November, the Defense Department and the military services will sponsor events and activities to increase awareness of the significant achievements and milestones that often occur during the recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration or transition process.

These events and activities include a sitting volleyball tournament, a wheelchair rugby exhibition, a healing arts recognition event, a Facebook Town Hall and a blog series focused on military caregivers.

According to Rodriguez, highlighting adaptive sports – sitting volleyball and wheelchair rugby – demonstrates the DOD's broad focus on identifying and enhancing abilities after a wound, injury or illness occurs.

"Adaptive sports and reconditioning activities,

such as healing arts which includes painting, ceramics, music therapy and expressive writing therapy, are an essential way of understanding what each wounded, ill and injured service member is able to achieve – focusing on ability rather than disability," Rodriguez said.

Although the DOD has seen a steady decrease in the total population of wounded, ill and injured service members since 2007, prompting some questions about the future of warrior care, Rodriguez stated warrior care remains a top priority.

"While the case management needs of the wounded, ill and injured population are changing, policy, process and baseline capability will not," Rodriguez said. "The Defense Department continuously evaluates the needs of the wounded warrior programs to ensure an exceptional level of care is provided to the current and future population of wounded, ill and injured service members."

For more information about Warrior Care Month, visit <http://www.defense.gov/warriorcaremonth>

CYCLIST from P15

in multiple training events with Goldenstein as part of the WTB. He said he also enjoys the social aspect of cycling, like being able to interact with other injured service members.

"I may not always understand their injuries," Goldenstein said, "but they know I'm not just this random person asking them jump on a bike and ride."

The Soldiers cycle about two hours Tuesdays and Thursdays. Most trips are about 20 miles, but a couple of days a month the group goes on longer rides of 40 miles or more.

Cycling is one of many adaptive sports activities Soldiers can participate in while recovering at Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Benny Ontiveros

Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Goldenstein rotates her body in a dance-like exercise to safely stretch her muscles during practice for the 2014 Army Warrior Trials in West Point, N.Y.

HORSEBACK from P10

an center, I see their inner child come out. They relax and they really enjoy being around the animals," said Brad Bowen, Military Adaptive Sports Program coordinator.

"It gives me a little bit of release from the Army side of life," said Army Pvt. Ashiah Moshauer. "I get to come out here and just enjoy being outside and with my favorite animal."

Army Sgt. Andrea Kraus agrees.

"I love the animals; they seem to be so intuitive of what you are feeling. It's nice to able

to take a step back; it creates a sense of mindfulness."

Adaptive horseback riding is just one of several options the transitioning Soldiers can participate in during their recovery.

"The Soldier Adaptive Reconditioning Program offers Soldiers the opportunity to get out and do what they really like to do as part of their recovery," Bowen said.

SARP offers more than 15 different options for transitioning warriors including high impact, high-energy activities such as wheelchair basketball, cycling and track and field, as well as low impact

options such as brain games, chess or arts and crafts.

"SARP is designed to get Soldiers active during their transition. They are required to participate 150 minutes a week in one or more of our activities," Bowen explained. "We try to incorporate almost any activity that you can think of or anyone wants to do into our program."

To fulfill the requirement of 150 minutes per week, activities are held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and there are different programs each month. Soldiers participate in their physical training and can pick other activities.



By Claudette Roulo
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

No matter how far deployed service members are from their families, they still can take an active role in the care of their children, the military's top noncommissioned officer said in San Diego Nov. 14.

"United Through Reading has made it possible for every parent, teacher, mentor and leader in our all-volunteer force to instill a keen appetite for literacy and enable the empowerment and impact that reading brings to every kid," said Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in his keynote address at the organization's seventh annual Storybook Ball.

Reading should remain a priority for every parent, teacher and guardian, he said, and it's the job of every leader to encourage this attitude. Rearing America's youth is a "community affair," Battaglia said.

There is empirical evidence that reading

aloud is the "single most important act for building early reading skills," said Sally Ann Zoll, the chief executive officer of United Through Reading.

The Battaglias have been involved with United Through Reading for nearly 30 years, the sergeant major said. His wife, Lisa, became a volunteer shortly after the organization formed – at a time when it was extremely difficult for families to remain in contact with their deployed service members, the sergeant major said.

"With the exception of letters, a sporadic short phone call from the USO pay phone or maybe a MARSgram, family connectivity was less hit and more miss," Battaglia said.

While technology has made staying in touch easier, separations are still trying times for families – particularly those with children, the sergeant major said. And reunions can be just as trying, he added.

For many toddlers and young children, the returned parent is a "stranger in the house-

hold," Battaglia said. Over the years, United Through Reading has played a key role in making separations and homecomings a bit easier through their storybook reading program, the sergeant major said.

In 2014 alone, service members recorded more than 25,000 videos through United Through Reading at locations around the world – at sea and on six continents – according to Zoll.

Battaglia related the story of a soldier who deployed to Iraq in 2009, leaving behind his wife and two young boys.

A few months into his deployment, United Through Reading helped the soldier record a video of himself reading "Green Eggs and Ham." The organization sent a CD and two copies of the book to the soldier's family, and the boys immediately reacted to the video as if their father was in the room reading to them, the sergeant major said.

Books and videos arrived every month for the duration of the soldier's deployment, and the happiness they provided

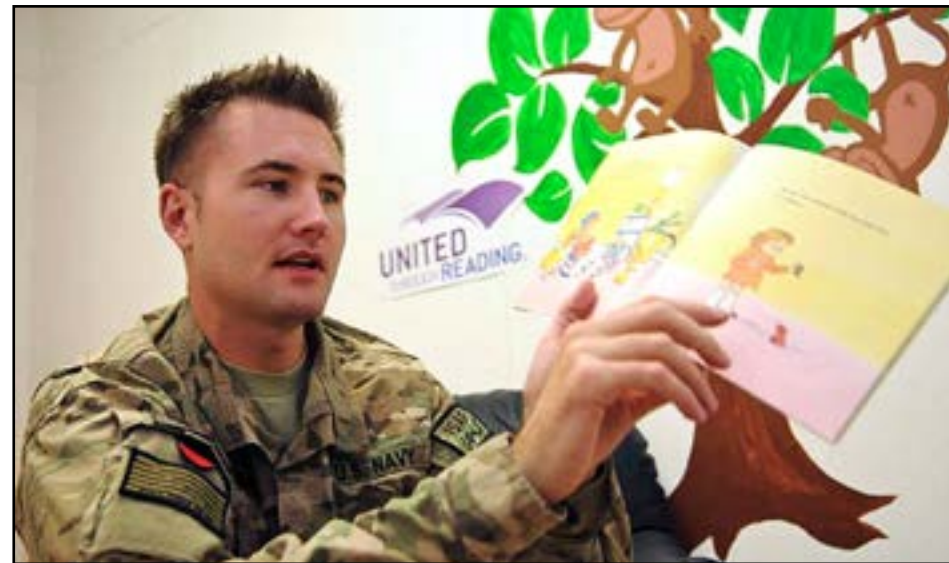


Photo by Chief Petty Officer Josh Ives

U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Matthew Stroup, a public affairs officer assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, reads a book as part of a United Through Reading read-a-thon sponsored by the team on Forward Operating Base Farah, Afghanistan, Jan. 18, 2013. Participants in the program were encouraged to read to children in their families or to students at Birch Elementary in Idaho, to promote childhood literacy. United Through Reading is a non-profit organization that enables deployed service members to share their love and support with their children by reading books aloud on DVD.

went both ways, Battaglia said. The soldier's monthly visits to the USO tent to record the videos became a way for him to decompress from his hazardous job as an explosive ordnance technician, he said.

This is just one example of the tens of thousands of military families helped by United

Through Reading, the sergeant major said. "Connecting families, educating, and raising the spirits of our military and families is what UTR does and it's what they are good at," Battaglia said.

The sergeant major told the audience that he is proud to call United Through Reading long-

standing partners of the armed forces. "We all are grateful for your service to more than 100,000 beneficiaries and distributing more than 25,000 books to our military children," Battaglia said. "You have allowed our military families to stay more connected, more cohesive and more complete."

'JBSA Makes Cent\$' helps ensure every dollar counts

Did you have an idea on how to eliminate waste? Don't let that idea get away, because the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio needs you to identify any wasteful practice you see via a

"JBSA Makes Cent\$" submission.

If we can make an adjustment to – or eliminate waste in – what we're doing, saving resources and still accomplishing our mission, then we want to hear about it.

Submitting and getting suggestions approved on the JBSA Makes Cent\$ websites can now benefit you. In addition to the saving opportunities you bring to JBSA, you can earn time off for your approved ideas.

One approved idea earns a certificate and time off award of two hours.

Three approved ideas or more than \$5,000 saved earns a certificate, a coin from the 502nd ABW commander and a

time off award of four hours.

Five approved ideas or more than \$10,000 saved earns a certificate and time off award of eight hours.

Visit the "JBSA Makes Cent\$" website at [http://](http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/JBSAMakesCent$.aspx)

[www.jbsa.mil/Resources/JBSAMakesCent\\$.aspx](http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/JBSAMakesCent$.aspx) to learn more about what is going on around the command, as well submit your ideas.

(Source: 502nd Air Base Wing)

Courts-martial, crimes and punishment at Joint Base San Antonio

The Joint Base San Antonio Judge Advocate General completed four Air Force courts-martial during October 2015. The results of a court-martial are not final until the clemency and/or appeals process is completed.

All courts-martial are open to the public and upcoming courts-martial can be viewed at the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's website at <http://www.afjag.af.mil/docket/index.asp>.

Airman 1st Class Luis F. Santos of the 959th Inpatient Operations Squadron was found guilty by a military judge of two specifications of sexual assault in violation of Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. He was sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, reduction to E-1, total forfeitures of pay and 18

months confinement.

Capt Jorge O. Pagan from Air Force ROTC Det. 840 pled guilty with a pre-trial agreement and a general court-martial of eight officers sentenced him to a dismissal, 30 days confinement and a reprimand, for two violations of Article 92, UCMJ. The Article 92 violations were for inappropriate relationships with female cadets.

Airman Jelani Connell and Airman Basic Micah Boszeman were each acquitted of all charges faced at general court-martial for alleged violations of Article 120 and 128 of the UCMJ.

During the month of October 2015, JBASA Air Force commanders administered 13 non-judicial punishment actions under Article 15 of the UCMJ.

The punishments imposed reflect the commander's determination of an appropriate punishment after considering the circumstances of the offense and the offender's record. A suspended punishment does not take effect unless the offender engages in additional misconduct or fails to satisfy the conditions of the suspension. The suspension period usually lasts for six months unless a lesser amount is specified.

False Official Statement (fitness score card): An officer forfeited \$2,609 pay per month for two months, with one month suspended and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: An airman first class consumed alcohol while under the age of 21. For this misconduct,

the member received a reduction to Airman, forfeiture of \$404 pay and a reprimand.

Failure to go/disrespect towards an NCO: A senior airman failed to go at the time prescribed to his appointed place of duty. Additionally, the member displayed disrespect towards an NCO as he approached the NCO until he was face-to-face and raised his voice at the NCO. The member received a reduction to the grade of airman first class and a reprimand.

Wrongful use of marijuana: A senior airman tested positive for marijuana during a unit sweep. The member received a reduction to the grade of airman first class, forfeiture of \$1,027 for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

Drunk and disorderly: A master sergeant who was a member of a medical training team on temporary duty to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, over consumed alcohol and became drunk and disorderly in the team hotel. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of technical sergeant, forfeiture of \$1,836 per month for two months and a reprimand.

Underage consumption of alcohol: An airman first class consumed alcohol while underage at a bar. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of airman, forfeiture of \$500 pay and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty: An airman was found vaping in his dormitory. The member received a reduction to the grade of airman basic, forfei-

ture of \$773 pay for two months with one month suspended and a reprimand.

False official statement: An airman first class made a false official statement to an Air Force Office of Special Investigations special agent regarding the facts surrounding an official investigation. The member received a reduction to the grade of airman and a reprimand.

Wrongful use of marijuana: An airman first class tested positive for marijuana on a Bickel test at a level higher than she initially tested during a unit sweep. The member received a 21 days extra duty and a reprimand.

(Source: Joint Base San Antonio Judge Advocate General)

E7 from P4

The changes will be “revolutionary,” not just “evolutionary” like past changes to NCO professional development, said Davenport and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, who served as moderator for the panel discussion. “Noncommissioned officers and their Soldiers must be ready to perform their missions in an increasingly complex world in which they

find themselves today,” Preston said.

“This is an opportunity for the NCO Corps to take charge of Noncommissioned Officer Education System of how we educate our noncommissioned officers,” said retired Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Sparks, director of TRADOC's Institute for Professional Development.

“You’ve got to own NCOES,” Sparks told NCOs in the room about rebalancing the NCO

Education System.

“Training is the fulcrum for manning and equipping,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Schroeder of U.S. Army Forces Command.

“We must develop systems and policies” that enable PME to sync with deployments and operational missions, Schroeder said. He and retired Lt. Col. Ernie Boyd of U.S. Army Forces Command, or FORSCOM, discussed the new Sustainable Readiness Model,

or SRM, which will be used for Army Force Generation.

Many broadening opportunities for NCOs exist in the Army today that are not used to full advantage, Sparks said. Davenport said there will be a “shaking up” of broadening opportunities, to ensure all of the opportunities are widely known.

“We’ve got to define what broadening is,” said Schroeder, explaining that the term is used for

everything from fellowships to drill instructor assignments.

A “hybrid solution” needs to be developed to meet both operational and educational requirements, Schroeder said. More frequent classes might be one solution, he said.

Leveraging technology might be another, Davenport said.

One thing is certain, Schroeder said, “We can’t go back to where we used to be. We can’t continue to do business

as usual.”

The solutions can’t be made “in a stovepipe,” Schroeder said, and must be discussed “across our staff sections.” While G3 (operations and training) is usually the proponent for schools, G1 (personnel) and other sections also need to be involved.

More guidance on NCO professional development is expected in December, Davenport said, with a third fragmentary order to be released in the spring.

CORNYN from P1

and remedy of pain and injury by transporting the wounded to a waiting U.S. medical facility as fast as human and machine would allow.

“These intrepid American warriors boldly executed this humanitarian mission by rescuing

nearly 900,000 souls in the process,” Gower said.

At great risk to their own safety, they often designed new procedures and techniques that allowed our wounded on the battlefield to be rescued in the face of insurmountable odds and unrelenting conditions, Gower noted.

Cornyn’s bill recognizes

es that U.S. Army Dust Off crews pioneered the concept of dedicated and rapid medical evacuation and rescued almost 900,000 U.S., Vietnamese, and allied sick and wounded. The legislation highlights their extraordinary innovation and resourcefulness, whereby some Dust Off units

in Vietnam were able to deliver a patient to a waiting medical facility on an average of 33 minutes from the receipt of the mission.

Being a member of a Dust Off crew in Vietnam meant that there was a one in three chance of being wounded or killed. Dust Off crews experi-

enced a rate of aircraft loss that was more than three times that of all other forms of combat helicopter missions in Vietnam.

Gen. Creighton Abrams, commander of Military Assistance Command in Vietnam (1968-1972) highlighted the heroism of Dust Off crews when he said,

“A special word about the Dust Offs ... Courage above and beyond the call of duty was sort of routine to them. It was a daily thing, part of the way they lived. That’s the great part, and it meant so much to every last man who served there. Whether he ever got hurt or not, he knew Dust Off was there.”

INSIDE THE GATE

Closed for Training

The Military & Family Readiness Center is closed every first and third Thursday from 1-4:15 p.m. for in-service training. Call 221-2418 or 221-2705.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

AccessAbility Fest

Joint Base San Antonio Exceptional Family Member Program consultants invite patrons to attend the 9th annual AccessAbility Fest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 8 at El Mercado, 514 W. Commerce. The event is a gateway to resources, opportunities and independence. This comprehensive community

Employment Readiness Orientation

Mondays, 9-10 a.m. Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. Learn about employment resources and review services offered. Call 221-2380 for more information.

Helping Us Grow Securely

The HUGS playgroup meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Middle School Teen Center, building 2515. An interactive playgroup

for infants and toddlers; open to parents and their children, ages 5 and under. Registration not required. Call 221-2418.

Anger Awareness

Nov. 30, 2-4 p.m., Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797. This four-part series must be attended in order. Learn to identify triggers, signals, expressions of anger, and techniques to effectively control anger. Call 221-2418.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited. Call 539-1178.

Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344.

OBAMA from P17

effective.

"There will be setbacks and there will be successes," he said. "The terrible events in Paris were obviously a terrible and sickening setback. Even as we grieve with our French friends, however, we can't lose sight that there has been progress being made."

Airstrikes and allies on the ground have taken back significant territory in both Iraq and Syria from ISIL, he noted.

"We've seen that when we have an effective partner on the ground, ISIL can be and is pushed back, so local forces in Iraq, backed by coalition air power, recently liberated Sinjar," he said. "Iraqi forces are fighting to take back

Ramadi. In Syria, ISIL has been pushed back from much of the border region with Turkey. We've stepped up our support of opposition forces who are working to cut off supply lines to ISIL strongholds in and around Raqqa."

But this must be sustained, the president said. "More nations need to step up with the resources that this fight demands," he added.

The G-20 nations agreed to strengthen border controls, share more information and step up efforts to prevent the flow of foreign fighters in and out of Syria and Iraq.

"We have a military strategy that involves putting enormous pressure on ISIL through airstrikes, that has put assistance and training on the ground with Iraqi forces," Obama said.

"We're now working with Syrian forces as well to squeeze ISIL, cut off their supply lines."

The president noted success from authorizing additional U.S. special operations forces on the ground to work with Syrian and Iraqi forces against ISIL.

The United States is reaching out to all in the anti-ISIL effort, the president said. He is reaching out to Russia and Iran, who are supporting the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, explaining "that ultimately, an organization like ISIL is the greatest danger to them, as well as to us."

Obama added, "There will be an intensification of the strategy we put forward, but the strategy that we are putting forward is the strategy that ultimately is going to work."

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command opens app store

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

The Army's Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, has stood up its own online app store to bring the command's body of knowledge to Soldiers where they are most likely to ingest it: online and on the move.

"Most Soldiers have a mobile device of some sort: a cell phone, a tablet, or something," said Lt. Col. Joseph A. Harris Jr., TRADOC capability manager for mobile learning, or TCM-M.

"They are using those devices every day to get the information they need. And usually, that's through a mobile app of some sort," Harris said. "What we are trying to do is ensure that we

use what they are using already in order to get the information to them. We have a digital Army, and Soldiers have that digital mindset - and we are just capitalizing on that."

One of the things the newly-created TCM-M did was to create the "TRADOC Application Gateway," or "TAG," which will host unclassified, non-"for official use only" apps and interactive digital publications.

To access the app store, Soldiers can point their mobile devices to www.adtdl.army.mil, and log in to the site with just their Army Knowledge Online login name and password. Soldiers can, but don't need to, use a common access card to access the site. Right now the TAG

hosts only a tiny handful of the TRADOC-produced apps that are available elsewhere in commercial app stores, Harris said. Titles on an Android app store, for instance, include "DFAS Info2Go," "GoArmyEd," "Performance Triad," and "Army Comprehensive Doctrine." There are many others on other commercial app stores.

Matthew MacLaughlin Jr., TCM-M's senior mobile instructional design specialist, said that the few apps up now on the TAG are part of the evaluation for the site. By January, he said, they expect to make available on the TAG from 100 to 150 apps that support three mobile platforms.

For development of new applications

to meet the needs of Army organizations, MacLaughlin said he's got a team of six developers at TCM-M that can do in-house development for Android, iPhone and Windows Phone.

"Anybody can request an app," he said, or they can develop their own app. "We want to empower them and give them guidance on how to build their mobile applications correctly."

In the future, MacLaughlin said, he sees teams of developers going to locations throughout the Army to train mobile app developers on-site. In that way, a proponent Army organization can learn to develop its own apps to support their own mission.

"They won't have to go through us to create that mobile app. They will create it there, or as much as they can, and that can shorten the development timeline," MacLaughlin said.

Before any app can make it to the TAG, it must first pass at least two forms of verification, said Brian Robertson, program integrator, TCM-M.

Apps must be shown to be safe from malicious code, to make sure they don't damage the Army network where they will be hosted or the phones of the Soldiers who will install them, Robertson said.

Additionally, he said, proponent organizations for the apps must review the app to

ensure that it contains accurate and up-to-date information.

Robertson said he expects the TAG will cover mostly learning software, and that the TAG will in the future likely be part of a larger "Army software marketplace" that might also host apps with tactical applications.

He said already Army organizations who are independently hosting their own apps are asking that they be transferred to the TAG.

Harris said for organizations considering transferring their own apps to the TAG, "they won't lose ownership of their apps. They'll be hosted on the TAG, but they will still own and get the credit for them."

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